

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please cancel claims 1-12 and 18, amend claims 13, 19 and 20, and add new claims 21-33 as follows:

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1. (Cancelled)

2. (Cancelled)

3. (Cancelled)

4. (Cancelled)

5. (Cancelled)

6. (Cancelled)

7. (Cancelled)

8. (Cancelled)

9. (Cancelled)

10. (Cancelled)

11. (Cancelled)

12. (Cancelled)

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13. (Currently amended): A bracket for releasably securing components of an easily assembled and disassembled modular furniture system including a base frame, a plurality of furniture modules including a first arm module, a second arm module, a seat suspension module and a backrest module, said bracket comprising:

a blade portion having a mounting formation configured for attachment to one of the components, and an elongate blade formation projecting from said mounting formation; and

a sheath portion defining a chamber for receiving said blade formation and also having a mounting formation configured for attachment to an adjacent one of the components, said sheath portion and said blade portion being substantially coaxial upon assembly so that said blade portion can be readily slidably disassembled from said sheath portion.

14. (Cancelled)

13 15. (Original): The bracket of claim 13 further including an open rear end <sup>note this at rear of 37 in Fig 5</sup> of said chamber and a locking device <sup>42</sup> for securing said blade to said sheath portion upon passing through said chamber.

13 16. (Original): The bracket of claim 15 further including a formation on <sup>46</sup> said blade for engaging said locking device.

13 17. (Original): The bracket of claim 13 wherein said blade forms a right angle. <sup>right angle  
1/2 coaxial  
not supported</sup>

18. (Cancelled)

19. (Currently amended): A bracket for releasably securing components to one another, said bracket comprising:

a blade portion having a mounting formation configured for attachment to one of the components, and an elongate blade formation projecting from said mounting formation; and

a sheath portion defining a chamber for receiving said blade formation and also having a mounting formation configured for attachment to an adjacent one of the components-, said sheath portion configured so that upon assembly of said bracket, said sheath portion is in alignment with said mounting formation of said blade portion.

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20. (Currently amended): A bracket for releasably securing components of a furniture system, said bracket comprising:

a blade portion having a mounting formation configured for attachment to one of the components, and an elongate blade formation projecting from said mounting formation; and

a sheath portion defining a chamber for receiving said blade formation and also having a mounting formation configured for attachment to an adjacent one of the components- said sheath portion being substantially coaxial so that said blade portion can be readily, slidably disassembled from said sheath portion.

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21. (New): A bracket according to claim 13, wherein said sheath portion engages an exposed end of said blade portion.

22. (New): A bracket according to claim 21 wherein, upon assembly, said sheath portion fully encloses said blade formation.

13 23. (New): A bracket according to claim 19 wherein, upon assembly of said bracket, said mounting formation and said sheath portion are configured to be in opposed relationship to each other.

13 24. (New): A bracket according to claim 23 wherein said sheath portion and said blade portion are in contact with each other upon assembly.

25. (New): A bracket according to claim 23 wherein upon assembly, said sheath portion fully encloses said blade formation.

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13 26. (New): The bracket of claim 19 further including an open rear end of said chamber and a locking device for securing said blade to said sheath portion upon passing through said chamber.

13 27. (New): The bracket of claim 26 further including a formation on said blade for engaging said locking device.

nm 1.2 28. (New): The bracket of claim 19 wherein said blade forms a right angle.

13 29. (New): The bracket of claim 20 further including an open rear end of said chamber and a locking device for securing said blade to said sheath portion upon passing through said chamber.

13 30. (New): The bracket of claim 29 further including a formation on said blade for engaging said locking device.

13 31. (New): The bracket of claim 20 wherein said blade forms a right angle.

13 32. (New): A bracket according to claim 20 wherein upon assembly of said bracket, said mounting formation and said sheath portion are configured to be in opposed relationship to each other.

13 33. (New): A bracket according to claim 32 wherein said sheath portion and said blade portion are in contact with each other upon assembly.

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